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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement delivered on 26 January 1991 by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Executive Secretary General of the Regional Marine Environmental Protection Organization concerning the recent spilling of oil in the Gulf by Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement delivered on 26 January 1991 by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Executive Secretary General of the Regional Marine Environmental Protection Organization concerning the recent spilling of oil in the Gulf by Iraq

By polluting the environment and causing this disaster in the Gulf, the Iraqi régime once again demonstrates its contempt for marine, ecological and, indeed, human life. These events clearly show that this operation was undertaken for purposes of sabotage. This is also demonstrated by the concentration in the Gulf of Iraqi tankers carrying light petroleum which the Iraqis can easily set afire whenever they feel the time is right. The enormous oil slick created by the Iraqi régime imperils all forms of marine life and ichthyological resources and even poses a threat to the water used in desalinization plants.

The competent organizations and the international forces have been asked to contain this disaster as a matter of urgency, for the Gulf is threatened with a catastrophe on a massive scale, one even more serious than the disaster created by Nirouz oilfield during the war between Iran and Iraq. An operation of this type is difficult even in time of peace. One hardly dares think of the problems it would create in wartime.